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QUARTERLY PAPER

OF THE

AMERICAN BAPTIST HOME MISSION SOCIETY.

No. VIII.] Mission Rooms, No. 354 Broome Street, New York. [APRIL, 1842.]

THE AUXILIARY SYSTEM.

The Constitution of the American Baptist Home Mission Society contains ample provisions for an auxiliary relation with others of a more local character. As with all similar societies, in the infancy of their history, various modifications in the details of their auxiliary operations have been found necessary; but the experience of several years, aided by the counsels of brethren in different portions of the country, has enabled the Executive Committee to adapt those operations to the various circumstances under which the auxiliaries are found to exist, and to offer a foundation for pleasant and efficient co-operation in Home Missions throughout the denomination. The following are the leading features of our auxiliary system:

CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS.

"ARTICLE 7. Any Baptist Missionary Society may become auxiliary, by agreeing to pay into the Treasury of this Society the whole of its surplus funds, and sending to the Corresponding Secretary a copy of its constitution and annual reports, mentioning the names of its missionaries, and the fields of their operations."

Remarks.—This article applies to any State Convention, General Association, or other body having in view the management or superintendence of domestic missions, and, although it requires the surplus funds of the body applying, in order to become auxiliary, the destination of such funds does not prevent the auxiliary relation. If an auxiliary expend all its funds for missionary purposes within its own limits, it is presumed they are advantageously disposed of,—the work of missions is performed in that field to the extent of the means appropriated, without the intervention of the general Society. But if, after appropriating what is thought proper by the auxiliary, for their own state or district, a balance remain in their treasury, it is expected that it will be sacredly transmitted to our treasury for general purposes.

The requisition for the constitution, annual reports, and information of domestic operations, is, obviously, important and necessary. It will enable the parent society to understand the nature of the organization of its auxiliaries, and learn and report the whole amount of missionary labor performed by them.

"ARTICLE 8. Every auxiliary society who shall agree to pay the whole of its funds to this society, shall be entitled to a missionary or missionaries, to labor in such field as it may designate, to an amount at least equal to that of its contributions; provided such designation be made at the time of payment."

Remarks.—This article is specific in its object. It contemplates an auxiliary which, for any reason, prefers to avail itself of the aid of the Society's Executive Committee in promoting missionary interests. A variety of considerations may lead an auxiliary to such a preference. The Executive Committee having frequently before them numerous applications from ministers for appointment, might often better supply an auxiliary than the auxiliary could itself. Or the auxiliary may not possess sufficient funds to meet the necessities of their own state or district, and therefore, place the whole in the treasury of the Society, in order that an addition may be made to it: for the provision is, that it shall be entitled to an appropriation "at least equal to that of its contributions." Or the auxiliary might regard it as of paramount importance for the Society to supply the destination of the new settlements in the West, in the British provinces, or Texas. This is the case with some auxiliaries in churches, and might be with others of a more general nature.

"ARTICLE 9. The officers of auxiliary societies shall be *ex-officio* directors of this Society, and their members shall be members of this Society."

Comment upon this article is unnecessary.

FINANCIAL OPERATIONS.

1. The Constitution of the Society contains three restrictions on the Executive Committee in the disposal of funds. First, in the 5th article, requiring "that all moneys contributed for any specific purpose shall be faithfully applied only to that particular object." Second, in the 8th article, which has already been mentioned; and third, what is implied in the 2d article, to expend the funds "to promote the preaching of the gospel in North America." With these restrictions the whole amount of the Society's funds are subject to the disposal of the Executive Committee, who, having the whole field before them, will always endeavor to distribute them as the necessities of the different portions of that field demand.

2. Their rule of action is, to give no prospective pledges of general appropriations, but "as far as the means of the Society will allow, all requests from auxiliaries shall be granted (having respect to a fair division of funds among the states, and providing for the contingencies in the 5th and 8th articles of the Constitution) for the aid of ministers, churches, or destitute places."

3. In determining what is a *fair* division of funds, the ability of the auxiliary to supply its own destitution, and the advance of the missionary spirit among them, are taken into consideration.

4. For the collection of funds the Society is dependent upon the voluntary contributions of individuals, churches, and other bodies, either auxiliary or otherwise; but its chief dependence is found to rest on its own Collecting Agents, who, in general, are efficient, not only in obtaining subscriptions, but also in exciting activity in the auxiliaries, and greatly aiding their agents when they employ them.

5. As a general rule, all agents appointed and paid by the Society, are required to deposit the funds collected in our Treasury, or that of the State Convention where the collections are made, at the direction of the Committee on Agencies and Finance. But in all the latter cases, the amount so deposited is subject to the order of the Executive Committee, for the support of the Society's missionaries in those states, to the amount appropriated for that purpose, and the surplus, if any, for general purposes.

6. In this arrangement two objects are contemplated. First, to avoid the risk and exchanges frequently arising on the transmission of funds from distant States. And, secondly, to render the payment of salaries convenient to the missionaries.

7. There are two classes of auxiliaries, viz: those which sustain domestic missions within their own borders, and aid the Society in addition by their surplus funds and extra contributions; and those which, in conducting such missions, are aided by the Society.

8. In general, the funds of auxiliaries of the first class are collected and paid into their treasury by their own agents, or primary societies, and the surplus transmitted to ours by their treasurer. But frequently our agents are encouraged to make extra collections within their boundaries; in which case the amount collected is paid directly into our treasury.

9. All extra contributions, obtained in any way within the borders of such auxiliaries will be, if desired by the auxiliary, passed to the credit of the donor, *through the auxiliary*.

10. Extra efforts to obtain funds for general purposes are seldom made within the borders of auxiliaries of the second class; but when made, the same course can be taken in giving credit for funds obtained.

11. In certain cases, if an auxiliary having missionaries of their own to sustain, desire the aid of an agent of the Society in collecting funds in their state, an arrangement can be made so as that from the funds collected, the whole or a part of the amount necessary for the purposes of that auxiliary shall be deposited in its treasury, and subject to its order; and the balance of collections transmitted to the general treasury; or, if the Society also have missionaries there, deposited in the treasury of the auxiliary for the payment of those missionaries' salaries.

12. It is expected that all auxiliaries will direct their treasurers to receive deposits of funds from any source to the credit of the Society, and provide for their safe-keeping and prompt payment, to the order of the Executive Committee of the Society.

CO-OPERATION OF AUXILIARIES.

1. It is expected that our auxiliaries will, as far as they are able, prosecute the necessary domestic missionary operations within the territory they occupy. If, however, they are unable to extend those operations as far as their necessities demand, the Society holds itself in readiness to aid them according to its ability,—having reference to the necessities of other auxiliaries, or portions of the country. In such cases it is expected that their Board of Managers will nominate or recommend all persons whom they desire us to appoint; stating or causing to be stated all the information required under the following heads; and (unless special arrangements are made by the Executive Committee) select the fields of such as may be sent among them by the Committee, from other places; that they will direct and superintend the labors of all the Society's Missionaries, so far as not to contravene the instructions of the Executive Committee; and advise the Committee, annually, respecting the appointment or re-appointment, field, salary, &c. of all missionaries sustained by the Society in their territory *previous to the expiration of their appointment*. They will also give prompt notice of all ministers who would be useful as missionaries or agents, and are desirous of being employed as such, and all destitute places within their borders requiring attention; furnish an annual report of all their proceedings, the amount and expense of missionary labor performed under their exclusive direction, the names of their missionaries, fields of labor, and all such information as they possess to facilitate the designs of the Society.

2. All missionaries appointed by the Executive Committee are expected to labor and report according to the instructions given them from time to time, directly to the Corresponding Secretary. Those appointed to labor within the boundaries of an auxiliary will be placed under its direction and superintendence as before stated. They will also report to their Board of Managers, and furnish them a copy of the reports made to the Corresponding Secretary of the parent society as often as they require.

APPLICATIONS FOR AID.

INFORMATION REQUIRED.

All applications for our aid should be accompanied with information on the following points:—

FOR ONE CHURCH.

The name of the Church to be supplied; the town, settlement or village, county and State in which it is situated; the post-office address of the correspondent; the estimated number of inhabitants in the village or settlement; the number of communicants in the Church; the average number of attendants of all classes and ages at public worship on Sundays; the name (in full) of the minister proposed; his post-office address; his age; the number of his family (if he have one) *dependent on him for support*; whether he is regularly ordained, or a licentiate; the date when it is desirable his appointment should commence; the portion of time he is to devote to them; the total amount of salary necessary for his support if wholly engaged in the ministry; the portion of that salary which they will engage to pay for the given time; the portion which any auxiliary or other missionary body, propose to pay; the *least* amount that will suffice from the Society for the same period; whether there is another Baptist Church, and any of other denominations in the place; and any circumstances in their case to illustrate the necessity of their application.

FOR TWO OR MORE CHURCHES.

If the labors of the minister are to be divided between two or more churches, information as above, respecting each one is necessary.

FOR A VILLAGE OR SETTLEMENT.

If the application is for the supply of a settlement or village, where there is no organized Church, let the above information be given, substituting the name of the settlement or village for the Church, and stating the number of Baptist members known to be residing in it; or who, residing in the neighborhood, will probably unite in attending public worship with them.

Let the information, in all cases, be given briefly and without comment; after which any other information or explanation thought necessary can be added.

WHO SHOULD MAKE APPLICATION.

We greatly prefer that the minister proposed should, in all cases, make the application. If that is inexpedient, we desire that the clerk of the church, officially, or a committee appointed for that purpose, should do it.

Where two or more churches are to share the services of the minister, and circumstances prevent his making the application, a joint committee can, generally, best do it; but if this is not practicable, let the clerk or a committee of each church write.

CONCURRENT CERTIFICATE.

When the application is made by the minister, (which, we repeat, is most desirable) it should be accompanied, (on the same sheet if possible,) with a concurrent certificate of the church or churches to be supplied,—signed by the clerk, officially, or a committee as before mentioned,—in substance, thus, The ——— church (or churches as the case may be) concur in the foregoing application to the Executive Committee of the American Baptist Home Mission Society, to appoint (or re-appoint) ——— as their missionary.

If the minister is to supply a destitute settlement or village where there is no church, such a certificate, of course, is not expected.

OTHER APPLICATIONS FROM MINISTERS.

If a minister in one State apply for an appointment to another State, having no particular church or settlement in view, but wishing to be directed by the Committee, it will be necessary for him to inform us of his place of residence; post-office address; age; number of his family (if he have one) dependant on him for support; whether he is ordained, or a licentiate; the total amount of salary necessary per annum; the least portion of it that will suffice from the Society; the period when he will be ready to engage in the duties of his appointment, or commence his journey to the field assigned him, and any circumstances calculated to aid the Committee in their deliberations.

Such applications should also be accompanied with a recommendation as specified under the proper head.

APPLICATIONS FOR A MINISTER AND AID.

If an application is made not only for aid, but also for a minister to be sent, let all the afore-mentioned information be given except what relates to the minister; and substitute in brief and general terms such as will enable the Committee to judge of the qualifications necessary in a minister for the place, and accompany it with the requisite recommendation.

APPLICATIONS FOR ITINERANTS.

If an application is made for an itinerant minister to labor in a new section of country, where there is no church for him to supply, the number of inhabitants, communicants, average attendance at public worship in the *entire field*, and the *sum* to be raised by the churches may be omitted, and the names of the principal places to be supplied and their population, if known, substituted. If there is a church or churches in the field to supply any part of the time, the requisite information should be given, and, in either case, the recommendation will be expected.

RECOMMENDATIONS NECESSARY.

1. If the applicants reside within the boundaries of an auxiliary of this Society, it is *indispensable* that a recommendation should be obtained from their Board of Managers, or its Corresponding Secretary, officially, *not merely of the minister, but of the entire arrangement proposed*,*—and it is expected that such Board or Secretary will

* The recommendation for the proposed arrangement is, generally, far more important and useful than for the minister merely, as he is often well known by the Committee, especially if he have been previously appointed; whereas they may often know but little of the propriety of the arrangement without the recommendation of the auxiliary "Boards."

candidly state any alterations in the proposed arrangement they think circumstances require.

2. If they reside within the bounds of a State Society, Convention or General Association not auxiliary, the recommendation of their Board of Managers, or its Secretary, officially, will be preferred; but if distance, or difficulty in convening the Board prevent, the recommendation of some person or persons known by some of the Executive Committee may be forwarded.

3. If circumstances admit of the recommendation being seasonably appended to the letter, it should be done before transmitting it, but if not, let the application be mailed to our Corresponding Secretary, and let the same writer address the person of whom the recommendation is sought, giving a copy of the information and certificate transmitted, and requesting that the result be forwarded to us without delay. No appointment or re-appointment is made without such recommendation.

APPLICATIONS OR NOMINATIONS FROM AUXILIARIES

If the application proceed directly from the Board of Managers of an auxiliary body, they will furnish *all the information* required under the appropriate heads above, except the concurrent certificate of the church or churches. It is taken for granted that they are well advised of the wishes of those churches. Their application also is, of course, sufficient recommendation.

RE-APPOINTMENTS.

As the appointments of the Executive Committee are made, in general, for twelve months, if a renewal is desired, a new application should be *seasonably* made, containing fresh information on every point named, except the ordination and age of the minister, and stating any alterations from the previous arrangements.

The whole should be written, if possible, on one sheet of paper, to prevent increased expense of postage; that item being already sufficient to support a missionary.

TAKE NOTICE.

In all the above cases, if any thing required cannot be done, let the reason be given.

REMARKS.

Many reasons might be given for making the foregoing requisitions. A few only will be stated. The larger number of applications come from great distances, the particular localities, and other circumstances of which, cannot be known by the Committee; or they are from persons with whom the Committee have no acquaintance. Statistical information is essential to the formation of a proper opinion of the relative or comparative importance of places needing aid, and to assist the Christian public to appreciate the operations of the Society.

Again, the Committee wish to act understandingly. Their means are limited, and derived, to a considerable extent, from persons who make sacrifices to bestow them; therefore, they should possess all the evidence consistent, that their appropriations are prudently made. Besides, we have an auxiliary system, to which it is the interest of all parties to adhere—from which, therefore, the Committee especially, do not feel at liberty to depart.

ADVANTAGES OF THE SYSTEM.

In this plan are provisions for co-operation between the Society and its auxiliaries, of the most liberal character; calculated on one hand to enlarge the operations of the Society, and greatly promote the benevolent designs of its founders; and on the other adapted to the condition and necessities of the various auxiliaries throughout the country. By constituting the boards of managers of the auxiliaries, advisory committees, we insure to the churches at large a prudent disbursement of the funds committed into our hands; and to the auxiliaries themselves, provided the territory the attempt to superintend is not too extensive, appointments of the most efficient character attainable, and appropriations, when the treasury admits, commensurate with the necessities. In addition to which, it will be seen, that those auxiliaries which

cultivate their own domestic field, and contribute to the Society their surplus funds, may be aided to carry out their benevolent designs towards such as are more dependent.

Under such arrangements it will be further seen that the missionaries of the Society virtually become the missionaries of the auxiliaries, and theirs the missionaries of the Society. It forms one common interest in Home Mission operations, concentrates the energies, ability and piety of the denomination, and forms a bond of union among us at once strong in its influences upon the benefactors, and simple and efficient in its operations on the beneficiaries.

INVITATION.

This occasion is improved to invite all the State Conventions, General Associations, and other domestic missionary bodies, not already thus related, to become auxiliary to the American Baptist Home Mission Society.

Several conventions and missionary societies, have co-operated with the Society, as auxiliaries, a number of years—some of them from its organization; and they have nobly sustained it amidst all the vicissitudes which it has experienced. Although the entire benefits of their auxiliaryship cannot be estimated in this world, yet, in looking over the history of the Society, the prosperous condition of many churches; the moral and social happiness of numberless settlements and villages, and the moral elevation attained even by States can be traced, to a considerable extent, to that source.

There are several others, however, which have not entered into the auxiliary relation. Being engaged in enlarging Zion within their own territorial limits, they have either overlooked the subject altogether, or considered it not sufficiently important or expedient to require such a step. But if union is strength, and if the union of a portion of those bodies has been productive of so much benefit, might not much more be expected were the whole combined in one great organization for mutual council and aid, concentrating at one point official information of the labors, contributions, and success of each, and from that point diffusing it again in a condensed form over the whole country?

The subject is submitted to the consideration of all such bodies, with the hope that at the earliest period practicable, they will enter into the proposed relation with us.

FORM OF BECOMING AUXILIARY.

Missionary bodies, disposed to become auxiliary, have only to add a clause to that effect in their constitution, immediately following the appellation of the body. Or, to pass substantially the following resolution:

Resolved, That this ——— become auxiliary to the American Baptist Home Mission Society, "according to the seventh article of its Constitution." A copy of which resolution, with the constitution and list of officers of the body passing it, should be sent to the Corresponding Secretary at New-York as soon as convenient.

TO SECRETARIES OF AUXILIARIES.

The Secretaries of all auxiliary bodies are respectfully requested to use the foregoing in the meetings of the Board of Managers, and those of the auxiliaries with which they are respectively connected, in order that such arrangements may be made as are necessary to carry out our plan of co-operation.

TO MISSIONARY BODIES.

The Secretaries of all the State Conventions, General Associations, or other Domestic Missionary Societies, not yet auxiliary to this Society, will be furnished with a copy of our Annual Report, in order that it may be presented to their respective Boards of Managers for consideration, and, if the auxiliary system it contains is approved by them, to be made the basis of measures for the bodies they represent to become auxiliary to the American Baptist Home Mission Society.

The favorable attention of those Secretaries to the subject is respectfully requested.

NOTICE TO APPLICANTS FOR AID.

Applications for missionary aid are frequently made to the Executive Committee, unaccompanied with the necessary information and recommendations, although the necessity for them has been very extensively published. The practice subjects the applicants to delay, and the Society to increased expense for postage. It is, therefore, thought expedient to inform all applicants, whether ministers, churches, or others, that, without special reasons, the Executive Committee do not depart from the preceding rules; and they earnestly hope that applicants will, hereafter, notice every requisition, and conform to them in their communications.

As a general thing, a single sheet of paper is sufficient to contain all the writing necessary in an application, and when it is remembered that our letters usually come from distances where they are marked with the highest amount of postage, it will be seen that we are not unreasonable in requesting our correspondents to bear this point in mind. It is submitted to the judgment of correspondents, whether such applications should come to us post paid.

☐ The receipt of all applications for aid, made conformably with the foregoing rules, will be immediately acknowledged by mailing a copy of this Notice, or a letter if specially requisite, to the address of the applicant. The application will be submitted to the Executive Committee at their earliest subsequent meeting; and the success of it communicated to the applicant immediately afterwards.

☐ A copy of this Notice folded in a GREEN WRAPPER, will be forwarded to applicants who fail to give us the necessary information; they will please observe wherein they were deficient, and send us another application, corrected by reference to the foregoing rules. It will receive attention from the Executive Committee at the first meeting after its reception, and the applicant will be informed of the result.

MEETINGS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The meetings of the Executive Committee are held on the first week of each month. Without special reasons, no appointments are made at any other time. Applicants will do well to remember this and govern themselves accordingly in mailing their letters, as an application which reaches us just after a meeting, must lay near a month before it can be acted on.

TO MISSIONARIES.

Please see "Co-operation of Auxiliaries," 2d paragraph, page 59. Also, the list of auxiliaries, page 64.

ADDRESS OF THE SOCIETY.

Communications intended for the Society or Executive Committee, should be addressed to REV. BENJAMIN M. HILL, Corresponding Secretary of the American Baptist Home Mission Society, New-York.

Donations and subscriptions to R. W. MARTIN, Esq., Treasurer, No. 57 Wall-street.

All periodicals, or other printed documents, should be directed to "Am. Bap. Home Mission Society, New-York."

Please give the address as here printed, as on account of the existence of many societies and corporations in the city of New-York—some of them of nearly similar names, an omission to do so, especially when the initials only are used, occasions the misarrangement and even loss of such documents.

☐ This publication is periodical, and contains half a sheet; the postage for any distance under 100 miles, is 1-3 cents; for any distance over 100 miles, is 2 1-3 cents.

STATE AUXILIARIES

OF THE AMERICAN BAPTIST HOME MISSION SOCIETY.

New-Hampshire Convention,	Recognised	1832
Massachusetts do	do	do
Connecticut do	do	do
Pennsylvania do	do	do
New-York do	do	do
Ohio do	do	do
Kentucky General Association,	do	do
Virginia do do	do	do
Illinois Convention,	do	February, 1833
Maryland Union Association,	do	January, 1840
Michigan Convention,	do	December, do
Rhode Island do	do	July, 1841
Indiana General Association,	do	December, do
North Western Convention, Ill. and W. T.,	do	February, 1842
Missouri General Association,	do	April, do
Texas Home Mission Society,	do	July, do
Iowa General Association,	do	do do
Maine Missionary Society,	do	September, do
Mississippi Convention,	do	do do
New-Jersey do	do	December, do

PRIMARY AUXILIARIES.

Oliver-st Female Home Mission Society, New-York,	Recognised	1833
Stanton-street do	do	do
Western Association of Ladies' 1st Church, Providence, R. I.	do	1834
Young Ladies' Home Mission Society, Philadelphia, Pa.	do	1835
New Cape Girardeau Association, Missouri,	do	March, 1841
City Domestic Mission Society, New York City,	do	April, do
Norfolk-st. Female Home Mission Society,	do	do
First Church do do	do	Jan., 1842
First do do	do	April, 1843
do do do	Brooklyn, N. Y.	do do